

Technical Branch
Library, Museum and Zoo Group
Zoo Series

ZOO VETERINARY TECHNICIAN

05/99 (SAC)

Summary

Under general supervision, provide zoo animal health care under direction of veterinarian.

Typical Duties

Provide medical and technical support to veterinarians to assist in health care of zoo animals. Involves: administering medications to animals as directed; ordering and maintaining inventory records of veterinary drugs; maintaining complex health records on all zoo animals under medication; assuring animals receive prescribed preventive medicine, collecting stool samples; assisting in surgical procedures; delegating responsibility of dispensing minor medication to others; cleaning and maintaining zoo veterinary equipment; administering scheduled routine and parasite control treatments; supervising animal care staff as needed.

Perform other duties as required. Involves: substituting for subordinates, coworkers or supervisor to maintain continuity of services and operations during temporary absences; maintaining International Species Inventory System (ISIS) records; assisting in the development and delivery of education programs and in-house training and animal care maintenance, display design and habitat development; maintaining logs and records and preparing reports.

Minimum Qualifications

Training and Experience: Graduation from an accredited two-year Veterinary medicine Technician program or an Associates degree in animal health, biology, zoology, pre-veterinary medicine or related field, and two (2) years paraprofessional or technical animal health care experience under the supervision of a veterinarian; or an equivalent combination of training and experience.

Knowledge, Abilities and Skills: Good knowledge of: animal species, behavior, diets, diseases, pests and parasites; hazards and safety precautions pertinent to the field; veterinary equipment. Some knowledge of: zoo or exotic animal health care principles and practices; animal housing habitats, environment and ecology design display.

Ability to: recognize abnormal animal behavior; measure drugs for medication; perform a variety of complex veterinary and operative procedures; understand and follow oral and written instructions; express oneself clearly and concisely, orally and in writing; maintain complex records and prepare reports; maintain effective working relationships with fellow employees and the general public.

Skill in the use of veterinary equipment and in handling and restraining zoo animals.

Physical Requirements: Frequently exposed to zoonotic illnesses, possible injury from animals and chemicals; occasionally required to lift and carry heavy objects (up to 50 pounds).

Special requirements: Subject to call during non-working hours; must work various shifts and weekends.

Licenses and Certificates: Current Registration as a Veterinary Technician in State of Texas, ability to transfer registration from another state within one year of hire or equivalent such as degreed veterinarian.

Director of Personnel

Department Head